



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit:

Signature Armando Cruz Date 7/24/01

July 24, 2001

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20311

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each of the documents is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a

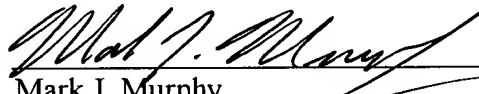
particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Applicant understands that, because no response has yet been filed by the Examiner, no IDS filing fee is to be charged. If, however, this is incorrect, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039 for any necessary filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 24, 2001


Mark J. Murphy
Registration No. 34,225

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, Ltd.
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500